

INCOMING

AMERICAN EMBASSY PARIS

UNCLASSIFIED

SIXTY-FIVE

Control 1684

ACTION:
STOESSELReed: August 13, 1961
2:49 AMINFO:
MIN
MINECON

FROM: ATHENS

POL 5
ULMER

NO: 22, AUGUST 12, 8 PM

POLR
SHAPEL
EUCC.1LACTION DEPT PRTY 258 INTO PARIS PRTY 22 ANFARA 19
USCCOLANDSCUTNEAST TIZER, MOSCOW 12MAS
MAAG

P R I O R I T Y

UEISF

Paris for Steessel and McGuire

H 1

CINCEUR

1. Recognizing that Checkmate II must soon be scheduled definitely, or abandoned, I met this afternoon with head Jusmagg, armed service attaches and other chancellery advisors to canvass situation.

EF

FF

ACTION:

POL

INFO:

QES

ECON

DEF 11

PAA

2. My military colleagues unanimous in believing cancellation of Checkmate would have adverse effect.

27

DECLASSIFIED WITH DELETION

Agency Case No. 800-395

NLE Date 1/26/85

Agency Case No. 89-395

NLE Date 1/26/85

4. However, it is my estimate that holding exercise in form originally planned may now be seized upon and misrepresented by Bulgarians and/or Soviet bloc as threatening or aggressive gesture "deliberately made to increase tensions", which would provide Khrushchev with first rate opportunity throw another violent fit, should he desire do so. Closeness of area to Bulgarian frontier and somewhat spectacular nature of operation might lend some color to this.

INITIALLY CLASSIFIED

SECRET

EX-REF ID: A65283

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6. Purpose this message primarily inform addressees that further Soviet explosion may well occur if exercise is held. That publicity has already taken place (Embtel 250) is now an additional factor. I am not competent to judge whether exercise might be shifted less sensitive area (Crete for instance) or held without US battle group participation.

BRIGGS

REF ID: A65420
CLASSIFIED

vc